



July 2004

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• **Legislative Update**

June was a busy month for the heritage areas.

-Introduced in the House: H.R. 4492, to amend the Omnibus parks and Public lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for certain national heritage areas, and for other purposes.

-Introduced on June 17: S. 2543 – (Craig Thomas, R-WY) - A bill to establish a program and criteria for National Heritage Areas in the United States, and for other purposes.

-Mark-ups: -S. 211 (Jeff Bingaman, D-NM), **to establish the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area in the State of New Mexico** (Santa Fe County, Rio Arriba County, and Taos County). The bill designates the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area, Inc., as the management entity and authorizes the development of a management plan for the heritage area. The Department supports the bill.

S. 323 (Mary Landrieu, D-LA), **to establish the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, Louisiana**, covering 13 parishes (counties) in and around the Atchafalaya Basin swamp, a region associated with Cajun culture. The bill was amended to add a cost-sharing provision and to make the sunset provision of the bill comparable to other heritage area bills. No hearing has been held on this bill and the Department has not taken a position on it.

S. 180 (Michael DeWine, R-OH) **to establish the National Aviation Heritage Area, and for other purposes.** The designation would include Montgomery, Greene, Warren, Miami, Clark, and Champaign Counties in Ohio, the Neil Armstrong Air & Space Museum in Wapakoneta, Ohio and the Wilbur Wright Birthplace and Museum in Millville, Indiana. The House passed H.R. 280 on November 18, 2003. An amendment in the nature of a substitute was passed for S. 180 that included Shelby and Auglaize Counties in the core area in Ohio, and authorized the Secretary to provide operational assistance subject to availability of appropriations.

-Hearings: On June 24, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on National Parks held a June 24 hearing on the **National Heritage Partnerships Act (S.2543)**.

Witness testimonies, including those of NPS Deputy Director Randy Jones, Craig Obey of the National Parks Conservation Association, and Dan Rice, Executive Director of the Ohio and Erie National Heritage CanalWay and Chair of the Advocacy Committee of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas, are available at <http://energy.senate.gov/hearings/witnesslist.cfm?id=1243>. Legislation S.2543, (Craig Thomas (R-WY), is available on the Thomas website at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>.

● Update on the NPS Advisory Board Report on the National Heritage Areas

-NPS Advisory Board Partnership Committee Planning Meeting--On June 10, members of the Advisory Board Partnership Committee and invitees met at Cuyahoga Valley National Park to outline a plan of action for completing a report on the *Future of the National Heritage Areas*. The NPS Advisory Board was created in 1935 to advise the Director and Secretary on issues relating to the National Park System, the National Park Service and its programs. The Partnership Committee of the Advisory Board has been asked to review the National Heritage Areas program and to make recommendations for how the NPS should be involved in national heritage areas in the future.

Attendees identified a list of issues that the report on the national heritage areas should address, and envisioned what the final product might accomplish. Committee members identified additional members for the committee, compiled a list of information sources and potential contributors, outlined a meeting and completion schedule, and discussed the look and distribution of the final report, which will be completed in mid-2005.

-Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Sustainability Study--Staff from the National Park Service, NPS Conservation Study Institute and Getty Conservation Institute met with Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor staff and local leaders in the Blackstone Valley on June 21-22 to discuss and outline an approach for completing a sustainability study on the future of the National Heritage Corridor. The National Heritage Corridor's Federal Commission and NPS funding will sunset in 2006, but the designation will not. Leaders and residents have "broken down boundaries" and fostered partnership opportunities among states, towns and residents. These groups would like to see their work evaluated in a transparent and objective process.



The meeting highlighted the importance of using the sustainability study to identify and measure the economic, social, natural, aesthetic, recreational and other values and impacts that have occurred in the bi-state Corridor since its designation 18 years ago. The study will include a series of "rally the valley" events to gather residents' feedback and support. It will feed into the NPS Advisory Board's report on the Future of the National Heritage Areas, expected to be completed in 2005.

● This Month in the Heritage Areas

-Schuylkill River Sojourn: This year's Sojourn, held June 4-11, 2004, covered over 100 miles of the Schuylkill River from Schuylkill Haven to Philadelphia, PA. This year's event attracted

120 kayaks and canoes over the weekend portion. Participants experienced every weather condition from downpour to sun and humidity. Gear was shuttled from campsite to campsite throughout the week. At each rest stop and campsite, local organizations provided food, information, and entertainment.

On Saturday night, participants joined in a spaghetti dinner at the Leesport fire house, which was followed by a drumming circle. Sojourners were given the option of sleeping in the firehouse to stay dry during the rainy night. The Sojourn is coordinated by the Schuylkill River National Heritage Area, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and National Resources, and hundreds of state, regional, and local partners. For more information and to view a photo gallery, visit <http://www.schuylkillriver.org/sojourn/>.



-Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor-- On June 25, 2004, on behalf of Mrs. Laura Bush, Assistant Secretary P. Lynn Scarlett designated 24 cities and towns in Massachusetts and Rhode Island as Preserve America Communities. Situated along the “John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor,” the communities had collaborated to apply jointly for the recognition as Preserve America Communities.

Scarlett, who is Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy, Management and Budget, participated in a series of events in the Blackstone Valley to which the media and public were invited. Throughout the day’s events, each of the community’s key leaders was presented with the Preserve America designations. The event locations were key sites in the Blackstone Valley, representing historical, cultural and recreational venues in the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. The transportation for the tour between sites was provided by an authentic English double-decker bus.

-Director’s Visit Highlights Heritage Area/ NPS Partnership Efforts--Director Fran Mainella visited the Essex National Heritage Area (ENHA) and its two National Park Service units, Salem Maritime NHS and Saugus Iron Works NHS, on June 24. ENHA commissioners and business leaders described to the Director the numerous partnerships and programs jointly developed by the National Park Service, the National Heritage Area, and local organizations and volunteers.

Superintendent Steve Kesselman gave the Director a tour of several partnership projects, including the tall ship "Friendship" and the Salem Regional Visitor Center. The Executive Director of the Essex National Heritage Commission, Annie C. Harris, explained the system of 10 cooperating visitor centers that have been established throughout the 500-square-mile National Heritage Area and thanked the Director for her support and enthusiasm for partnerships at all levels of the Service.



• Upcoming Events in the Heritage Areas

-Hudson River Valley--The fourth annual Great Hudson River Paddle (GHRP 2004) will be held July 6-15, 2004. GHRP 2004 celebrates the Hudson River Greenway Water Trail, the improvement of public access to the Hudson River, and the diversity and heritage of the riverside communities of the Hudson River Valley, and traverses nearly 150 miles from Albany to New York City.



The Paddle offers a series of festivals showcasing local cultural demonstrations, kayaking skills, information booths, and natural resource programs. GHRP 2004 is sponsored by the Hudson River Valley Greenway and the Hudson River Watertrail Association, Inc. and is sanctioned by the American Canoe Association. For more information, visit <http://www.hudsonrivervalley.com/>. (photo credit: John Henry)

• Upcoming Conferences and workshops

-Visit the new **Heritage Development Institute** website for course descriptions and registration information: <http://www.heritagedevelopmentinstitute.org>

-Friday, July 23, 2004, Reston, VA: an interactive workshop geared toward employees in Federal agencies who work with communities on conservation projects, which emphasizes the sharing of best practices.

-Wednesday, September 29, 2004, Louisville, KY: 9-2.30p at the National Trust for Historic Preservation Annual Conference—*The Basics of Heritage Areas: Getting Started*. Register through the National Trust (separate registration fee—conference attendance is not required) at <http://www.nthpconference.org>.

- September 23-24, 2004 in Butte and Virginia City, Montana.

-2005 International Heritage Development Conference: June 5-8, 2005, Nashville, TN: sponsored by the Alliance of National Heritage areas and hosted by the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area. Deadline for Proposals is July 30, 2004. Visit the new conference website: <http://www.ihdc2005.org>.

-2005 Society for Applied Anthropology Conference: All abstracts must be received by October 15, 2004. Visit <http://www.sfaa.net/sfaa2005/2005instruct.html>.

-Session proposals for the **2005 APA Planning Conference** are due July 28, 2004. Visit <http://www.planning.org/2005conference/sessionproposal/index.htm>.

• New websites

-The **Heritage Development Institute** of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas now has a website:

<http://www.heritagedevelopmentinstitute.org>

-Also, visit the newly launched **2005 International Heritage Development Conference** site:
<http://www.ihdc2005.org>

- **Promotional Opportunities**

-**Heritage Health Index:** Heritage Preservation is coordinating the Heritage Health Index in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, with funding from the Getty Grant Program and additional support from The Bay Foundation and Peck Stacpoole Foundation. The Heritage Health Index will be a national survey of the condition and preservation needs of U.S. collections. This project will—for the first time—produce a comprehensive picture of the state of artistic, historic, and scientific collections held by the full range of institutions that care for them. The survey will be done via a self-administered questionnaire in July 2004.

The Heritage Health Index is designed to be repeated every four years to keep the data current and to measure progress. The majority of survey participants will be randomly selected. However, if you would like to make sure your institution is included, please contact Kristen Laise at klaise@heritagepreservation.org or 202-634-1422. For more information, visit www.heritagepreservation.org.

- **Other happenings in the Washington Office**

-Your editors met with John Tourtellot, geotourism editor at National Geographic Society *Traveller Magazine* and Director of Sustainable Tourism. Visit the Sustainable Tourism Resource Center at <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/sustainable/index.html> to participate in an on-line forum and for news on sustainability initiatives around the world.

- **For more information on the heritage areas, visit our [website](#).**

-Reach the editors at brenda_barrett@nps.gov or suzanne_copping@contractor.nps.gov
-Past issues available at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/rep/bb.htm>
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